

REMARKS

Claims 55-58, 60 and 66-68 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 55-57 and 60 are amended, and claims 66-68 are added. The amendments and added claims introduce no new matter. Claims 59 and 61 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 55 is amended to clarify that the pixel electrode is substantially exposed through the opening. Support for the amendments to claim 55, and added claim 67, can be found, for example, in col. 14, lines 33-34 and Fig. 14 of Applicants' specification.

Claim 56 is amended to clarify that the electrode is the pixel electrode. Support for the amendments to claim 56 can be found, for example, in col. 17, lines 11-18 and Fig. 12 of Applicants' specification.

Claim 57 is amended to clarify that the device according to claim 55, further comprises an other electrode exposed through an other opening in the at least one of the insulating film and the intermediate layer, the other electrode including an external connection terminal that connects with an external circuit. Support for the amendments to claim 57 and added claim 66 can be found, for example, in Fig. 24 of Applicants' specification.

Claim 60 is amended to correct dependency based on the cancellation of claim 59.

Support for added claim 68 can be found, for example, in col. 17, lines 45-51 of Applicants' specification.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Booth during the telephone interview held April 17 are appreciated. The reasons presented during the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 55-59 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-08-262475 to Nakajima et al. (hereinafter "Nakajima"); and rejects claims 60 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakajima in view of at least one of U.S. Patent No. 5,110,748 to Sarma and 4,654,117 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter "Aoki"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 59 and 61 render the rejections of those claims moot.

The Office Action relies on Nakajima as disclosing all of the features of claim 55. However, Nakajima cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, any pixel electrode corresponding to the pixel electrode with features as recited in claim 55. The Office Action relies on the wiring 4 depicted in Fig. 2 of Nakajima as corresponding to the claimed electrode. However, the wiring 4 in Fig. 1, and 90 in Figs. 4(c)-5(d), in Nakajima are for connecting driver circuitry, depicted on the left side of the figures, to the wirings 12 and 80, depicted on the right side of the figures, that lead to a display panel. Applicants note that the objectives of Nakajima are to solve problems caused by a large number of wirings connecting a liquid crystal display device and drive circuitry.

Further, Nakajima does not teach, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, any allegedly corresponding pixel electrode being positioned over the adherent layer and substantially exposed through an opening, as recited in claim 55. The Office Action relies on the exposure of the upper surface of the wiring 4 in Nakajima, above the region where the substrate insulative layer 9, layer insulation object 10 and passivation film 11 are not present, to allegedly correspond to the electrode being positioned over the adherent layer such that the electrode is substantially exposed at the opening. However, this configuration does not correspond to a pixel electrode being positioned over the adherent layer and substantially exposed through the opening, as claimed.

These arguments were discussed with Examiner Booth during the April 17 telephone interview. Examiner Booth agreed that Nakajima does not disclose the above-described combination of features.

None of the other references are applied in a manner to overcome these deficiencies in Nakajima.

For at least the above reasons, the applied references do not teach, nor can they reasonably be considered to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 55. Additionally, claims 56-58 and 60 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by the applied references, for at least the respective dependence of these claims, directly or indirectly, on allowable independent claim 55, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.


Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 55-58 and 60 over any combination of the applied references are respectfully requested.

Added claims 66-68 are also allowable at least for the respective dependence of these claims, directly or indirectly, on independent claim 55, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 55-58, 60 and 66-68 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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